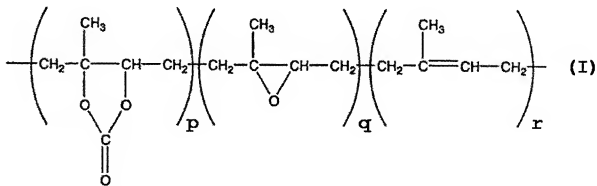


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A cyclic carbonate-containing polymeric compound consisting of a polymeric compound represented by formula (I):



wherein p, q, and r independently represent the molar composition ratio of each monomer unit: p is a number over 0; q and r are each a number not smaller than 0; and the sum of p, q, and r is 1.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for producing the cyclic carbonate-containing polymeric compound according to claim 1, comprising:

deproteinizing natural rubber;

epoxidizing the deproteinized natural rubber;

liquefying the deproteinized natural rubber or the epoxidized deproteinized natural rubber via depolymerization; and

allowing the liquid epoxidized deproteinized natural rubber to react with supercritical carbon dioxide.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the step of allowing the liquid epoxidized deproteinized natural rubber to react with supercritical carbon dioxide is carried out in the presence of a polar organic solvent and/or an ionic liquid.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the polar organic solvent is at least one member selected from the group consisting of N,N-dimethylformamide, N,N-diethylformamide, N,N-dimethylacetamide, N,N-diethylacetamide, and N-methylpyrrolidone.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the ionic liquid is at least one member selected from the group consisting of 3-methyl-1-octylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate, 1-hexyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate, 1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate, 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium tetrafluoroborate, 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium hexafluorophosphate, and 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium trifluoromethanesulfate.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the step of allowing the liquid epoxidized deproteinized natural rubber to react with supercritical carbon dioxide is carried out at a reaction temperature between 50° C. and 200° C.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the step of allowing the liquid epoxidized deproteinized natural rubber to react with supercritical carbon dioxide is carried out at a supercritical carbon dioxide pressure of between 5 MPa and 20 MPa.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the step of allowing the liquid epoxidized deproteinized natural rubber to react with supercritical carbon dioxide is carried out for 0.5 hour to 20 hours.

9. (Cancelled).